

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:)	
)	Attn: Application Branch
Jan Uilke Stoffelsma et al.)	
(Continuation of PCT/NL00/00491)	Examiner:
)	
Serial No.: Unknown)	
)	
Filed: January 3, 2002)	Atty. Docket No.: 000023.00106
)	HC\pdc
For: Method for Forming an Article)	
Comprising Closed-Cell)	
Microfoam Thermoplastic)	

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Preliminary to examination on the merits of the above-identified application filed concurrently herewith, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 31, without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims 32-35.

--32. (New) Method according to claim 10, wherein the nucleating agent is talc.

33. (New) Method according to claim 32, where said talc has a mean particle size > 10 micrometers.

34. (New) Method according to claim 19, where the surface-active agent is used in a concentration of 0.5-2 wt. %.

35. (New) Method according to claim 16, wherein the plastic is polypropylene and the impact modifier is selected from the group of polymeric modifiers such as low-crystallinity PP, LDPE, ABS, MBS, EVA, chlorinated PE and mixtures thereof, and the agent or mixture of agents is used in a concentration of 5-15 Wt. %, based on the weight of the thermoplastic.--

Please amend claims 12, 17-20, 28 and 30 as follows:

3. (Amended) Method according to claim 2, wherein the foaming agent is a physical foaming agent selected from the group consisting of carbon dioxide, nitrogen, air, oxygen, noble gases, water and isoalkanes.

4. (Amended) Method according to claim 2, wherein the foaming agent is a chemical foaming agent taken from the group consisting of sodium bicarbonate and azodicarbonamid and mixtures with other additives comprising these.

12. (Amended) Method according to claim 10, wherein the nucleating agent used is talk having a mean particle size of > 3 micrometers.

17. (Amended) Method according to claim 16, wherein the plastic is polypropylene and the impact modifier is selected from the group of polymeric modifiers such as low-crystallinity PP, LDPE, ABS, MBS, EVA, chlorinated PE and mixtures thereof, and the agent or mixture of agents is used in a concentration of 2-40 wt. %, based on the weight of the thermoplastic.

18. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic is admixed with a surface-active agent.

19. (Amended) Method according to claim 18, wherein the surface-active agent is selected from the group consisting of fatty alcohols, esters based on dicarboxylic acids and natural short-chain fats/alcohols, esters of alcohols and long-chain fatty acids and mixtures thereof, and wherein the surface active agent is used in a concentration of 0.1 – 5 wt. % based on the weight of the thermoplastic

20. (Amended) Method according to claim 19, wherein the surface-active agent is used in a concentration of 0.3-3 wt. %.

28. (Amended) Method according to claim 27, wherein an amount of 0.05-0.10 wt. % based on the weight of the thermoplastic is used.

30. (Amended) Method according to claim 29, wherein an amount of 0.10-0.15 wt. % based on the weight of thermoplastic is used.

REMARKS

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the above amendments prior to examination of the application on the merits.

In the event that there are any questions relating to this Amendment or to the application in general, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney concerning such questions so that the prosecution of this application may be expedited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **“Version with markings to show changes made.”**

Please charge any shortage or credit any overpayment of fees to BLANK ROME COMISKY & McCAULEY LLP, Deposit Account No. 23-2185 (000023-00106). In the event that a petition for an extension of time is required to be submitted herewith and in the event that a separate petition does not accompany this

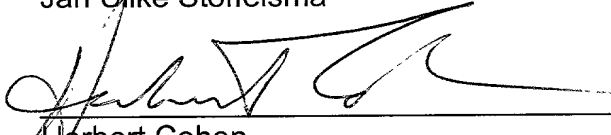
response, Applicants hereby petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) for an extension of time for as many months as are required to render this submission timely. Any fee due is authorized above.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Uilke Stoffelsma

Date: January 3, 2002

By:


Herbert Cohen
Registration No. 25,109

BLANK ROME COMISKY & MCCAULEY, LLP
WIGMAN COHEN LEITNER & MYERS IP GROUP
900 17th Street, N.W., Suite 1000
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 463-7700 / (202) 463-6915 (facsimile)

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the claims:

Claims 3, 4, 12, 18-20, 28 and 30 has been amended as follows:

3. (Amended) Method according to claim 2, wherein the foaming agent is a physical foaming agent selected from the group consisting of carbon dioxide, nitrogen, air, oxygen, noble gases, water and isoalkanes [such as isopentane].

4. (Amended) Method according to claim 2, wherein the foaming agent is a chemical foaming agent [such as] taken from the group consisting of sodium bicarbonate and azodicarbonamid and mixtures with other additives comprising these.

12. (Amended) Method according to claim 10, wherein the nucleating agent used is talk having a mean particle size of > 3 micrometers [micrometres and preferably > 10 micrometers].

17. (Amended) Method according to claim 16, wherein the plastic is polypropylene and the impact modifier is selected from the group of polymeric modifiers such as low-crystallinity PP, LDPE, ABS, MBS, EVA, chlorinated PE and [the like or] mixtures thereof, and the agent or mixture of agents is used in a concentration of 2-40 wt. %, based on the weight of the thermoplastic[, and preferably of 5-15%].

18. (Amended) Method according to [one or more of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic is admixed with a surface-active agent.

19. (Amended) Method according to claim 18, wherein the surface-active agent is selected from the group consisting of fatty alcohols, esters based on dicarboxylic acids and natural short-chain fats/alcohols, esters of alcohols and long-chain fatty

acids [and the like or] and mixtures thereof, and wherein the surface active agent is used in a concentration of 0.1 – 5 wt. % based on the weight of the thermoplastic

20. (Amended) Method according to claim 19, wherein the surface-active agent is used in a concentration of 0.3-3 wt. %[, preferably in a concentration of 0.5-2%].

28. (Amended) Method according to claim 27, wherein an amount of [0,05 0,10 0.05 - 0.10 wt. % based on the weight of the thermoplastic is used.

30. (Amended) Method according to claim 29, wherein an amount of [0,10-0,15] 0.10 - 0.15 wt. % based on the weight of thermoplastic is used.